BENGALURU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 65% Partly Cloudy | Sensex 80,364 | Nifty 24,634 | Gold 1,15,224 | Silver 1,43,000 | Dollar 88.70 | Euro 104.15 | GBP 119.26

RUSH HOUR TAX

Proposal to levy congestion tax on vehicles entering city via arterial roads during peak hours stirs up heated debate

PAGE 3

SHUTTER UP

Post office ATMs that have been shut for months due to technical issues are all set to open up again

PAGE 4

Welfare groups allege dogs labelled aggressive are being held at Animal Birth Control centres indefinitely in violation of rules as focus shifts from population control to capture

ISLE OF DOGS

Caregivers being forced to adopt dogs for their release

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Concerned animal lovers have condemned the illegal detention of street dogs labelled "aggressive" at the city's Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres. Under India's ABC Rules, dogs involved in bite cases can only be quarantined for 10 days for observation and vaccination before being sterilised and released back to their original location. Citizens allege this process is being ignored, with dogs picked up on complaints kept at the centres for over a month without release.

Several animal welfare group organisations alleged that the move has come into affect after Lokayukta ordered verbally to keep aggressive dogs in observation centres. A joint letter from Citizens for Animal Birth Control, South, Bengaluru Cares, All Paws community, written to Animal Welfare Board Of India, said, "The Lokayukta has given verbal orders to the local body to keep aggressive dogs in observation centres This is a reality in Bengaluru. The dogs who have been picked up and who have caregivers need to be adopted by the caregivers using the AWBI form failing which they will not be released. Using the AWBI adoption form for these forced adoptions, accounts to misuse. Also we don't know the fate of the dogs who don't have caregivers. The ABC centres are being converted to observation centres thereby hampering the scope of the Animal Birth Control program. This will result in an explosion of dog population."

"The solution lies in ensuring that animals are sterilised, vaccinated, and released back to their original locations, in line with Supreme Court orders and the 2023 ABC Rules. The civic agency must adopt stringent measures to implement these rules
— Anjali Gopalan, Naz Foundation

A source working at one of the ABC centres in Bengaluru, on condition of anonymity,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Down the digital rabbithole

Rising digital addiction among migrant labourers linked to recent suicides

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The city has witnessed three suicides among migrant labourers this month, raising alarm over a disturbing pattern linking mental health struggles, domestic disputes, and excessive use of digital devices. Authorities and NGOs are increasingly concerned that unchecked mobile and gaming habits are intensifying stress among vulnerable communities.

Two of the recent cases highlight the tragic consequences of this growing issue. Sayan Bhattacharya, a migrant worker, took his own life following an escalating domestic dispute with his wife, who reportedly left him. Disturbingly, the act was streamed live on Facebook by him, which his mother, a nurse in their hometown, witnessed online. Sources revealed that Bhattacharya had become increasingly withdrawn, spending long hours on his mobile. Already under significant stress, his prolonged use of the phone and exposure to online content further affected his mental state, contributing to his decision to end his life.

Another case involved Alameen Shaik, a 30-year-old Bengali rag picker living near Bellahalli under the Bagalur Police Station limits. Shaik reportedly struggled with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

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THINGS TO DO

01 Desi dancefloor

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is organising 'Dandiya Nights', a spellbinding experience where the infectious beats of Bollywood meet the timeless rhythm of dandiya, creating an evening filled with music, dance, and merriment. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, Thanisandra Main Road; When: September 30 and October 1, 6 pm**

02 Festival in Full Swing

The Sarjapur Outer Ring Road Bengali Association (SORRBA) will hold its 17th Durga Puja, focusing on Pancha Durga — five forms of the Goddess Durga — incorporating elements of South Indian tradition. In addition to the rituals, the event will feature a food court with a range of regional and international cuisines. **Where: Samskruthi Pavilion, Sarjapur Road; When: Till October 2**

03 Tradition on display

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath presents Bengaluru Utsava – a vibrant festive exhibition-cum-sale celebrating Dasara and

Navratri through the artistry of over 50 artisans from across India. The event features over 70 stalls offering handloom, handicrafts, lifestyle products, festive decor, and essentials for Bombe Habba doll displays and winter wear. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road When: Till October 12, 10 am onwards**

04 Education beyond borders

Education in Ireland is set to host its flagship 'Education in Ireland Fair', bringing together representatives and academics from 21 Irish universities and colleges, along with officials from the Irish Visa Office, offering students and parents the opportunity to engage directly with institutions and gain first-hand insights on studying in Ireland. **Where: Taj MG Road; When: October 5, 12 pm to 4 pm**

Childhood risk factors may trigger midlife heart problems

Study links high blood pressure in childhood to increased risk of development of cardiovascular diseases by mid-50s; doctors say poor eating habits, obesity and sedentary lifestyle are contributing factors

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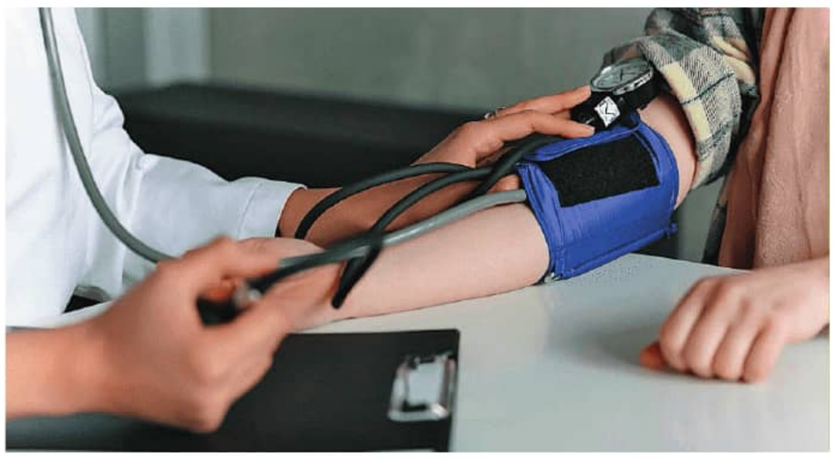

According to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and presented at the American Heart Association's Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2025, children as young as seven with elevated blood pressure are at a greater risk of developing cardiovascular diseases by their mid-50s. Doctors in the city add that more children are now being diagnosed with hypertension than a decade ago, largely due to sedentary habits and increasing mental health pressures.

Dr Anupam Jaiswal, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist & Paediatrician, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Bannerghatta, stated that it has been observed that children are more frequently developing high blood pressure, where lifestyle changes and genetic influences play a critical role. "One of the foremost contributors is child obesity, as excess body weight adds stress to the heart and blood vessels and makes it more difficult for the circulatory system to function properly," said Dr Jaiswal, adding that poor eating habits are also a significant factor, with diets high in salt, sugar, and processed foods potentially contributing to elevations in blood pressure.

Health professionals warn that the rising trend of high blood pressure diagnoses in young adults is deeply concerning. "Hypertension in children in Bengaluru is quite common owing to urban lifestyle and high stress conditions the families live in. The definite percentage doesn't matter, the increasing trend and the early age of diagnosis, especially in adolescents and young adults, is the worrying factor," said Dr Gunda Srinivas, Consultant, Paediatrics Emergency and Paediatrics, Aster RV Hospital.

Health professionals express concern over rising trend of high blood pressure diagnosis in young adults; routine checks deemed crucial for early intervention

Dr Srinivas cited stress as another contributing factor, as many children face academic pressure, peer-related social pressure, and digital stress from prolonged screen exposure. "Chronic stress can disrupt hormonal balance, which in turn increases the risk of elevated blood pressure," said Dr Srinivas.

Speaking about the growing cardiovascular risks among children, Dr Jaiswal warned that today's youth may face increased heart-related problems in their 40s and 50s. He noted that recent trends also show a rise in cardiovascular issues among young adults, largely driven by lifestyle and behavioral factors. "We are now seeing things like high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and insulin resistance in much younger people than what we previously thought," said Dr Jaiswal.

Primary hypertension high in children

Dr Sangeetha GB, Internal Medicine Specialist, Vasavi Hospitals, said that primary hypertension in children is increasing, particularly above the age of seven. "Approximately 7 per cent of children suffer from hypertension, and among them, 29 per cent are obese, which contributes significantly to elevated blood pressure. Primary hypertension in children is more prevalent in urban areas such as Bengaluru," she said. She noted that the exact cause of primary hypertension is often unknown, but it is typically multifactorial, involving genetic inheritance, physical inactivity, environmental pollution, unhealthy dietary habits, high sodium intake, and obesity.

Prevention and early detection are key

Dr Sangeetha emphasised that awareness programmes in schools, annual blood pressure screenings for children above the age of three, and training school staff to monitor blood pressure can be effective measures. She added that governments should initiate awareness campaigns and provide blood pressure monitoring facilities in schools to support early identification and management of paediatric hypertension, thereby reducing the risk of future complications. She said that schools should also promote healthy eating habits, encourage physical activities, and ensure sports participation across all age groups.

High blood pressure in children often shows no symptoms, making routine checks essential, especially for those with risk factors. While healthy children should have annual checks, those with medical conditions may need more frequent monitoring.

Delay in guest lecturer appointments sparks protests across state

The meeting between Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil and Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar to resolve the prolonged delay in appointing guest lecturers in government first-grade colleges failed to yield any solution, ensuring further postponement of appointments. According to UGC norms, there has been an ongoing tussle between qualified and non-qualified guest lecturers, and the ministers discussed ways to resolve the issue legally. As the meeting did not result in an agreement, senior officials from the Law Ministry, including the Advocate General, have scheduled another online session on Saturday to find a resolution.

The state has 430 government first-grade colleges with 11,283 guest lecturer vacancies. Of these, around 5,000 candidates meet NET, SET, or PhD qualifications, while the remaining 5,000–6,000 fulfill UGC educational criteria. The dispute between these groups has stalled recruitment, affecting nearly 3 lakh undergraduate students. Courts have also directed that non-qualified candidates be considered in some cases, adding to legal complexity. While qualified guest lecturers seek exclusive appointments, the government insists that experienced non-qualified candidates be included. **— BMB**

Cheaper stays, sweeter treats with GST changes

With the GST slash taking effect, hotel room rents and bakery prices across Bengaluru have dropped. Rooms priced below Rs 7,500 per night in regular hotels now cost about 7 per cent less, after GST on hotel stays was reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. "This comes as a relief for tourists and travellers staying in mid-range hotels," said PC Rao, President of the Bangalore Hotel Owners' Association. The sweet tooth too gets a reprieve—GST on items like cakes, buns, bread, ice cream, and sweets has been brought down from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, leading many bakeries and sweet shops to cut prices. "Even ghee and butter are exempted now, so customers are seeing real savings," Rao added. However, he clarified that restaurant food prices remain unchanged despite the tax cut. **— BMB**

October 8 meeting to decide fate of buildings without CC/OC in B'luru

The state government will hold a high-level meeting on October 8 to decide whether electricity and water connections can be provided to buildings constructed without Completion Certificates (CC) and Occupancy Certificates (OC) across Karnataka, including Greater Bengaluru. The decision will be crucial for thousands of homeowners who are already living in such buildings.

The issue arose following a Supreme Court order dated December 17, 2024, which restricted the granting of utility connections to buildings lacking CC and OC. The order applies to all states, but Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed officials to verify whether other states are uniformly implementing it.

At a review meeting held on Monday, the Chief Minister stressed that the government's decision should be practical and people-friendly. Demolishing already constructed houses was deemed unfeasible, and the possibility of providing a one-time regularisation for such buildings was actively discussed.

Officials noted that many homeowners, having invested their savings, are already residing in houses without the required approvals. The meeting debated whether existing laws permit granting a one-time relaxation to regularise these cases.

The October 8 meeting will be attended by the Chief Secretary, departmental ministers concerned, the state's Advocate General, the Chief Minister's legal advisors, and senior officials. The discussions will specifically examine whether applications submitted up to March 2025—before the Supreme Court's order took effect—can be exempted from CC and OC requirements and granted water and electricity connections. **— BMB**

Inmate caught with phone inside prison

IN BRIEF

Despite strict security measures, mobile phones continue to find their way into Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. On Tuesday evening, prison officials discovered an undertrial inmate in possession of a mobile phone during a surprise inspection at Tower 1, Barrack 1.

The inspection team, led by Chief Superintendent K Suresh, noticed the inmate, identified as Essoh Germain, behaving suspiciously around 8 pm. When officials attempted to enter the barrack, Germain resisted, shouting and physically confronting staff. In a bizarre attempt to prevent the search, he even splashed sambar on the officials.

After a struggle, the team frisked him and recovered a mobile phone with a SIM card concealed in his undergarments. Following the recovery, the inmate reportedly banged his head against a wall, injuring himself, and was rushed to the prison hospital for treatment.

Prison Superintendent Imaam Saab Myageri filed a complaint with Parappana Agrahara police, prompting them to register an FIR on Wednesday. Police are now investigating the seized phone to determine Germain's activities inside the prison and trace the source of the mobile device.

–BMB

Pothole-ridden road claims student's life

A 22-year-old student lost her life after being hit by a speeding truck while navigating a damaged stretch of road at Budigere Cross, under Avalahalli police limits, on Monday morning.

The victim, identified as Dhanushree, a final-year BCom student at a private college and resident of Hoskote, was on her way to class when the accident occurred. Around 8.30 am, while trying to avoid a pothole, she was struck from behind by a recklessly driven truck. She lost her balance and slipped under the moving vehicle, succumbing to her injuries on the spot.

The truck driver fled immediately after the accident. Police rushed to the scene, recovered the body, and shifted it for post-mortem while registering a case of hit-and-run. The incident comes a week after residents of Varthur and Gunjur staged a protest demanding pothole-free roads and urgent upgrades to the hazardous stretch. They called for resurfacing, traffic signals, proper turnovers, and long-term infrastructure improvements to ensure safer travel.

–BMB

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Debate rages as city mulls peak-hour fee

Public frustration over congestion pricing reflects crumbling infrastructure, inadequate metro, poor bus services, unchecked heavy vehicles, and poor coordination

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Peak-hour congestion on Outer Ring Road fuels discussion over new vehicle tax

A proposal to levy a congestion tax on vehicles entering Bengaluru through nine arterial roads during peak hours has ignited sharp debate among citizens and experts. The recommendation is part of "Karnataka's Decade – Roadmap to $1 Trillion Economy", prepared by the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The proposal aims to ease traffic in the city's busiest corridors, but reactions remain mixed. Some believe such a measure is essential for Bengaluru's future mobility, while others insist it is unfair and premature without basic infrastructure improvements.

Herkal Anant, a resident of Rajajinagar, tied the issue directly to road conditions. "A huge crater near Ram Mandir, Rajajinagar, clearly shows the substandard quality of material being used. Road repair work must be taken up on a war footing. Motorists wouldn't mind paying a one-time surcharge for expediting the task," he said.

For others, the congestion fee in its current form is deeply problematic. Dr Kiran Veigas of Whitefield said, "The congestion fee proposed for the Outer Ring Road (ORR) raises serious concerns about practicality and fairness. Congestion pricing works in cities with robust public transport, particularly metro networks, which Bengaluru currently lacks. Imposing such a fee without alternatives is inequitable. Moreover, the exemption for vehicles with multiple occupants shields many decision-makers who travel with drivers. This undermines shared responsibility. If the goal is genuine decongestion, enforcement against heavy trucks violating peak-hour bans must come first. High-displacement vehicles should also face charges regardless of occupancy due to their disproportionate environmental and spatial impact. Finally, newly formed municipal corporations must be held accountable. Penalties for underperformance would ensure public funds are used effectively. A congestion fee should be part of a broader urban mobility strategy—not a standalone penalty that targets everyday commuters."

> **"Congestion fee for ORR raises concerns about practicality and fairness. Cities with successful pricing also have robust metro networks, which Bengaluru lacks**
>
> –Dr Kiran Veigas, Whitefield

HIT THE ROAD RUNNING

Other commuters echoed these concerns. Praveen Rao, a software professional from HSR Layout, argued: "Without better metro and bus services, this tax will only burden daily officegoers. First fix public transport, then talk about new fees."

Leela Srinivasan, a resident of Malleswaram, added: "Congestion pricing may help in the long run, but unless potholes and traffic mismanagement are fixed, it feels like punishing citizens twice."

The proposal has thus raised a larger question: should Bengaluru first strengthen its infrastructure and transport network before introducing levies, or can congestion charges act as a catalyst for change? For now, the debate continues, reflecting the city's struggle to balance growth, mobility, and fairness.

Law enforcement helps traffic police tackle city gridlock

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Bangalore Commissioner of Police Seemanth Kumar Singh's latest circular directing Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) to deploy law-and-order police to assist traffic police is expected to improve traffic management across the city. The Commissioner, while speaking to media at Bengaluru Press Club in July, said law-and-order police will support traffic police in identifying black spots and enforcing road discipline among motorists.

In his recent circular, the Commissioner instructed DCPs to ensure law-and-order police assist traffic police during peak hours to mitigate congestion. The circular also advised officers to download the Public Eye app on their mobile phones to upload photos of traffic violators. "DCPs are advised to collect the data of traffic violators recorded by law-and-order police and send it to my office," the circular stated.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said law-and-order police have already begun assisting traffic police during peak hours and weekends. "The directive from the Commissioner not only helps traffic police manage vehicular movement more effectively during peak hours and weekends, but also improves overall efficiency of traffic management," he said.

Motorists and social activists have welcomed the move. "The presence of law-and-order police will deter motorists from violating traffic norms. I welcome the Commissioner's directive to involve law-and-order police in regulating traffic during peak hours," said Yatish M, a motorist from Rajajinagar.

City traffic improved as law-and-order police join peak-hour road enforcement

Urban strategist Vinod Jacob noted that with traffic police short-staffed, especially during peak hours, deploying beat police at major junctions can significantly ease congestion by curbing one-way driving and footpath riding. "Other key issues choking traffic flow include vehicles blocking the free left lane while waiting to turn right or go straight, and vehicles crossing the right lane, obstructing oncoming traffic. Addressing these challenges alone will improve signal efficiency and ensure smoother traffic movement across the city," he said.

It may be recalled that the plan was first introduced in October 2023 by then City Police Commissioner B Dayananda, who had proposed involving law-and-order police alongside traffic police to enhance traffic management and reduce travel time. The latest circular reiterates this approach and formalises the continued involvement of law-and-order personnel in traffic regulation.

With this initiative, Bengaluru aims to reduce congestion, improve road discipline, and enhance commuter safety, demonstrating a coordinated effort between traffic and law-and-order police to tackle growing urban mobility challenges.

'Finish white topping work by October'

Bengaluru East Commissioner DS Ramesh has directed officials to complete the whitetopping work on the 5 km stretch of Hennur–Bagalur Main Road (10 km in total, including both sides) by the end of October. He instructed that no potholes or debris should remain during construction and warned that delays would result in penalties for contractors. The project includes the carriageway, footpaths, ducts, and utility works, all of which must be completed before the October deadline to ease traffic flow. The Commissioner also reviewed progress on the 12 km ITPL High-Density Corridor, where 8 km has been completed and 4 km remain pending. Expressing dissatisfaction over delays, he asked agencies such as BWSSB and KPTCL to accelerate coordination and resolve issues such as waterlogging near Hope Farm and Siddapura Junction. **— BMB**

Karnataka Civil Service age limit relaxed

The Karnataka government on Monday announced a one-time relaxation of three years in the maximum age limit for candidates applying for direct recruitment to the state civil service. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) issued the order.

"The government has issued an order relaxing the age limit by three years for all categories of candidates in recruitment to all state civil service posts," an official statement said. The government explained that the decision was taken after several public representatives and organisations submitted representations to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a relaxation of the upper age limit. Earlier, according to the order dated September 6, 2025, candidates had been given a one-time relaxation of two years. Following further representations, the government reviewed the matter and decided to withdraw the earlier notification.

The order will apply to all categories of candidates participating in the selection process, according to notifications for direct recruitment issued after this order and up to December 31, 2027. The government also reiterated that recruitment authorities had earlier been instructed not to issue new notifications for direct recruitment or to fill backlog vacancies in certain reserved categories until further orders, pending implementation of internal reservation within Scheduled Castes.

. **—PTI**

Karnataka postal ATMs to reopen after technical delay

Postal account holders can soon use 76 ATMs again across Karnataka, with the Department of Posts restoring services that were halted for seven months

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The Department of Posts is set to reopen 76 ATMs across Karnataka, including 14 in Bengaluru, seven months after they were closed due to technical problems. "We have identified a vendor to operate ATMs in Karnataka as well as across the country. The vendor has been visiting the ATM sites, and 12 sites have already been visited," said an official from the Department of Posts.

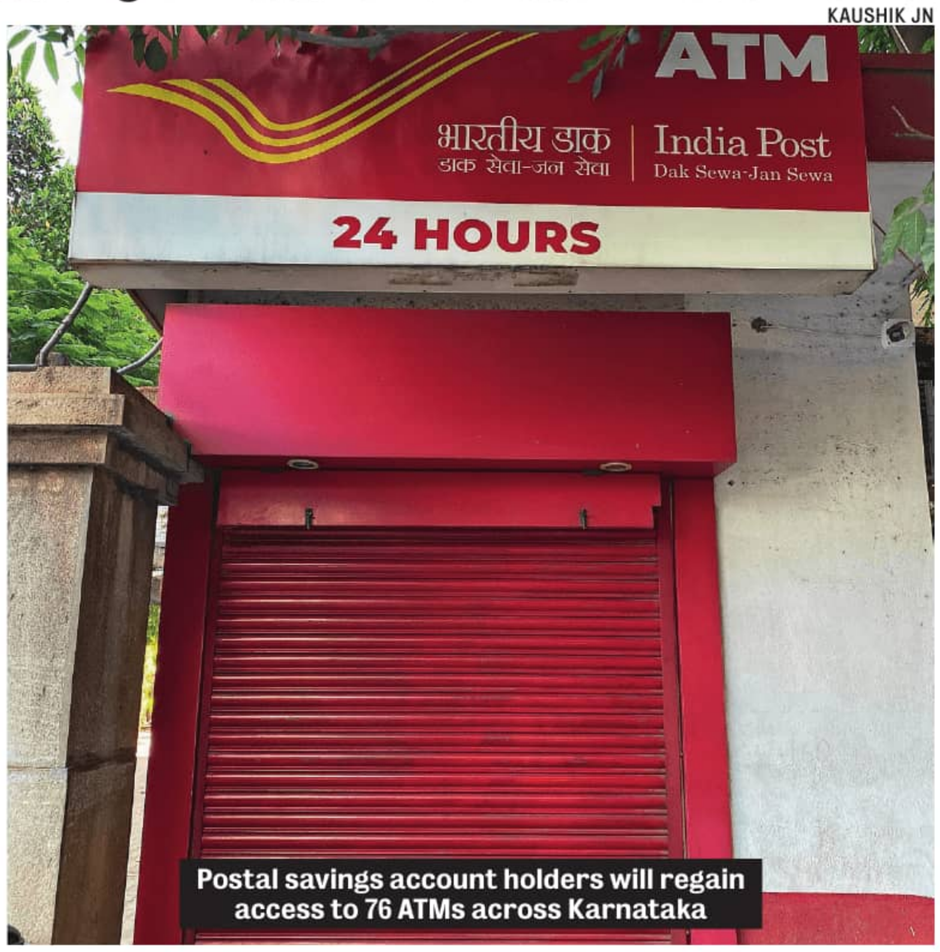
The official said the vendor must remove the existing ATMs installed at the sites by the previous vendor. "All the ATMs will be reopened shortly. There are 14 ATMs in the Bengaluru Region, including Channapatna. These ATMs can be used not only by those with debit cards issued by the Department of Posts but also by the public holding debit cards from public and private banks," the official said.

It is said that the Department of Posts decided to close the ATMs because the vendor failed to provide services, including loading cash and paying salaries to security guards. "There were some issues with the previous vendor. Now, the higher authorities have selected a new vendor to reopen the ATMs across the country. I expect the ATMs to reopen to the public shortly," the official said.

The decision to close the ATMs affected senior citizens who relied on them or had to visit the Post Office to withdraw cash.

Welcoming the Department of Posts' decision to reopen the ATMs, Padmavathy M, who has a savings account with the Department of Posts, said the move not only helps debit card holders but also adds value to the organisation. "Now, I can visit the nearest ATMinNew Thippasandra to withdraw cash from my savings account," said Padmavathy.

KAUSHIK JN



Postal savings account holders will regain access to 76 ATMs across Karnataka

A new vendor has been appointed to restore 76 postal ATMs in Karnataka, including 14 in Bengaluru, ending months of disruption for account holders.

BR Chandran, who opened a savings account at the 3D-printed Post Office in Cambridge Layout, said the reopening of the ATMs would add value to the Department of Posts. "Many senior citizens and middle-class families have savings accounts with the Department of Posts. The reopening of the ATMs will be a great help for such people," Chandran said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Hemanth Kumar, a savings account holder, said he was disappointed at the closure of the ATMs in March 2025 due to technical issues. "I am very happy to learn that the Department of Posts is making arrangements to reopen the ATMs," he said.

Air commuters to benefit from new luggage racks on Blue Line

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Like the Vayu Vajra buses, which provide luggage racks for air passengers, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is set to introduce similar facilities on its forthcoming airport line. The Blue Line, connecting Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport via KR Puram, will feature dedicated luggage racks in its trains. Each coach will have racks at both ends, replacing the current seating space for two passengers. The move aims to ease travel for air commuters who often carry heavy baggage, without inconveniencing fellow passengers.

Current luggage rules in Metro

Currently, the Bengaluru Metro does not provide a dedicated space for luggage. Passengers are allowed to carry one bag measuring up to 60 cm × 45 cm × 25 cm, with a maximum weight of 15 kg, free of charge. Heavier or additional bags incur a fee of ₹30, and violators may be fined up to ₹250.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

New luggage racks on Bengaluru Metro's Blue Line aim to improve commuter comfort

For added convenience, BMRCL has introduced smart digital luggage lockers on a trial basis at Majestic, Chickpete and Benniganahalli stations. Passengers can store their bags securely, travel light on the Metro, and collect them later. Charges are fixed at ₹70 for medium-sized luggage and ₹100 for large luggage for a period of up to six hours.

Between 2019 and 2023, BMRCL collected ₹1.17 crore in fines for oversized luggage. While penalties dipped during and after the COVID 19 pandemic, ₹36.7 lakh was collected in 2022 alone. Most fines were levied at stations near bus and railway hubs, with Yeshwanthpur topping the list, followed by Chickpete, Kempegowda, Baiyappanahalli and Yelachenahalli.

About the Blue Line

The 58.19 km Blue Line is being constructed in two phases: Phase 2A, from Central Silk Board to KR Puram, and Phase 2B, from KR Puram to Kempegowda International Airport. Once operational, it will have 29 stations, offering seamless connectivity between the city and the airport.

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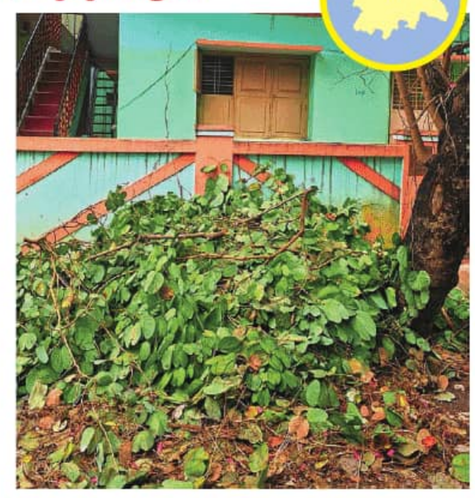
Tree trouble

Rajajinagar



Bescom trimmed tree branches on 12th B Main, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, but left the debris uncleared. The BBMP has also failed to take action. Authorities must intervene before the waste becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies.

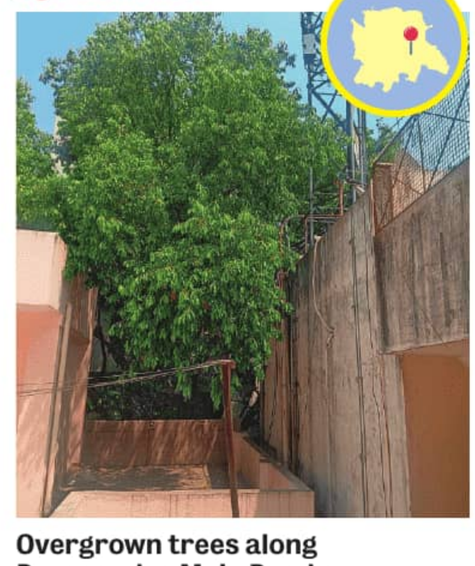
Barrier fault

Residency Road

Reflectors and bollards on Residency Road are damaged and require urgent replacement to ensure road safety.

Overgrowth alert

Byrasandra



Overgrown trees along Byrasandra Main Road are damaging building walls and could pose greater risks in the future. The Forest Department is urged to remove the hazardous branches as soon as possible.

Social media platform to push back against HC ruling

Social media platform X announced on Monday that it will challenge in court a recent ruling which upheld the government's content takedown system, allowing more than two million police officials across India to demand removal of posts through a confidential portal known as Sahyog.

In a statement on the platform, X said it would appeal "to defend free expression," marking its first response since the Karnataka High Court dismissed its earlier petition against India's content regulation framework.

The company argued that Sahyog permits takedown orders to be issued solely on allegations of illegality, without requiring judicial oversight or affording users due process.

According to X, this system exposes platforms to potential criminal liability if they fail to comply.

On September 24, the Karnataka High Court rejected X Corp's plea, saying there was no constitutional basis to strike down India's system of online regulation. Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over the case, stressed that social media cannot exist in a state of unchecked freedom and must be governed by law to safeguard citizens' rights, particularly in cases involving crimes against women.

HIGH COURT

The court further observed that, like other sovereign nations, India has the authority to regulate digital spaces and that no platform can treat the country's information environment as an unregulated arena. **BMB**

Prajwal challenges life imprisonment verdict in HC

Former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a rape case, has moved the Karnataka High Court challenging the trial court's verdict. In his appeal, Revanna questioned the credibility of the prosecution's case, pointing to delays and inconsistencies in the evidence. He highlighted that although the FIR alleged that the survivor was exploited for political purposes, she had later attended a farmhouse housewarming in 2023—three years after the alleged incident. According to the petition, this fact weakened the prosecution's version.

Revanna's counsel also argued that the complaint itself was filed three years after the incident, raising concerns about its timing. The appeal further claimed that the survivor could not identify clothes and a bag recovered by the police, casting doubt on the evidence.

The petition questioned why the mobile phone allegedly containing a video recording of the assault was never seized and also cited contradictions in the forensic report regarding semen-stained clothes recovered from a locked room.

Revanna urged the High Court to set aside the conviction and review the trial court's findings.

On August 2, the former MP was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Rs 11 lakh for raping a 47-year-old domestic worker in Mysuru and recording the act. The fine was directed to be paid as compensation to the survivor. **BMB**

7 peddlers nabbed; narcotics worth ₹9.93 cr seized

Bengaluru police have arrested seven drug peddlers, including two foreign nationals, and seized narcotics worth Rs 9.93 crore, comprising 3.85 kg of MDMA crystals, 41 grams of ecstasy pills, 1.82 kg of hydro ganja, 6 kg of ganja, along with a car and a two-wheeler used in the crime.

In a separate co-ordinated drug bust, the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested two African nationals for allegedly peddling narcotic substances worth Rs 7.8 crore in the city. Officials seized 3.8 kg of MDMA and 82 ecstasy tablets weighing 42 grams from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Thomas Navid Chime (42) and Ngwu Kingsley Chukwuemeka (32), both natives of Nigeria and residents of Electronic City.

Investigations revealed that Thomas had come to India on a medical visa in 2019. He was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2022 for drug peddling but later released on bail. Ngwu, on the other hand, had earlier been arrested by the Gujarat Cyber Crime Police for his involvement in OTP scams, with two cybercrime cases registered against him. After obtaining bail, he went absconding to Delhi before relocating to Bengaluru two months ago.

Based on a tip-off, the CCB team arrested the accused while they were peddling drugs. Both have been booked under the Foreigners Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In another separate case, on September 18, acting on a tip-off in Mahadevapura limits, CCB officers nabbed a software engineer turned drug peddler.

Accused identified as Kevin Roger (30) admitted to sourcing hydro ganja from Kerala to sell at higher rates. The team seized 500 grams of hydro ganja, a car, bike, and mobile phone, all valued at Rs 75 lakh.

The same day, in another operation three peddlers identified as Mohammed Shamshir (20), Jabeer (20) and Abishek were caught in Siddapura with 6 kg of ganja worth Rs 6 lakh. They confessed to procuring the drug for a low price and reselling it for a profit.

On September 19, in Adugodi limits, officials apprehended a dental college student identified as Ranjith Antony Mathew (33) who was peddling drugs to fund a lavish lifestyle. Police seized 300 grams of hydro ganja worth Rs 32 lakh from him.

In another operation on September 24, CCB intercepted a parcel at a post office in KG Nagar, seizing 1.22 kg of hydro ganja valued at Rs 1 crore. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

Labourer allegedly kills wife, ends life at residence

A 29-year-old labourer allegedly killed his wife before taking his own life at their residence on Ullal Main Road, under Jnanabharati Police Station limits, on Sunday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Manju P (27) who worked as a nurse at a private hospital in the city. The accused, Dharmaseelan Ramesh (29) had recently returned from Dubai and had spent about 15 days with his wife in their native place before coming back to Bengaluru for work.

According to Periyaswamy (53) Manju's father, the tragedy came to light around 8.30 pm when he visited the couple's house. He found the door locked from inside and, after repeated attempts to enter, discovered his daughter lying dead on the bed with her throat slit. Ramesh was found hanging from the ceiling fan next to her body using a nylon rope.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case of murder and are investigating the incident to determine the motive behind the alleged murder-suicide. Authorities are also examining the couple's background and recent interactions for clues.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahaya Vani helpline number 104 for help)

CCB arrests three foreign nationals residing illegally in B'luru

The Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) apprehended three foreign nationals who were found to be residing illegally in the city. The operation was carried out on September 25, 2025, after officers received credible information from an informant about their presence in an apartment under Devanahalli Police Station limits.

Acting on the tip-off, the CCB team registered a case and immediately conducted a raid at Ozone Urbana Apartments, where the three accused were secured.

During interrogation, it was revealed that they had illegally entered India in 2024 without passports or visas, travelling by boat from Jaffna, Sri Lanka, to Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. Later, with the assistance of another foreign national, they moved to Bengaluru and had been residing in the apartment since then.

A case has been registered and further investigations are underway. **BMB**

Domestic worker arrested for stealing jewellery worth ₹35 lakh

The JC Nagar police have arrested a 24-year-old domestic worker for allegedly stealing gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 35 lakh from the house where he was employed.

The complainant, a resident of Miller Road in JC Nagar, had lodged a complaint on September 23, 2025, stating that on June 15, 2025, Sachin Sonkar, a housekeeper at his residence, had stolen 236 grams and 825 milligrams of gold and diamond jewellery.

Police tracked Sonkar to Nevada village in Basti district, Uttar Pradesh. On September 25, he was apprehended along with the stolen jewellery. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the theft. **BMB**

No bail to rape accused

The Karnataka High Court refused to grant bail to a man accused in a rape case, drawing on a verse from the Manusmriti and a remark by Mahatma Gandhi to underline the importance of respecting women and safeguarding their dignity.

Two men were accused in the rape of a 19-year-old Dalit woman. While one of the men committed the act, the other restrained the woman's cousin. Both of them were arrested.

One of the accused later approached the High Court seeking bail claiming that he had not directly committed the act of sexual assault.

After hearing arguments from both sides, Justice S Rachaiah rejected the bail petition. **BMB**

Women's Commission urges action against alleged police misconduct

The Karnataka State Women's Commission has written to the Bengaluru Rural Superintendent of Police (SP), urging strict action against two police inspectors accused of misconduct, including the alleged assault of a woman. The move comes after reports emerged that Karnataka Rashtra Samiti (KRS) workers were allegedly detained in a false case and subjected to inhuman treatment.

In its letter dated Monday, the Commission referred to media reports from September 28, which stated that KRS workers had visited Madanayakanahalli Police Station to seek justice on behalf of farmers.

The workers alleged that they were detained under false charges, and when they raised objections, Nelamangala Police Inspector Narendra Babu allegedly snatched their mobile phones, issued threats, and objected to video recording.

The commission also cited allegations against the Madanayakanahalli Police Inspector, stating that he reportedly snatched a woman's phone, dragged her on the road in public view, and treated her in a humiliating manner. **BMB**

2 more arrested in vehicle vandalism case

The Byadarahalli police have arrested two more in connection with the case of vandalism of vehicles parked on the roadside. Earlier six persons had been arrested in the case.

During the inquiry, the accused admitted to their involvement in the incident and further confessed to damaging six vehicles in the Kare Kallu area under Annapoorneshwarinagar Police Station limits.

Police investigations also uncovered their involvement in multiple other crimes, including one robbery case in Madanayakanahalli, two in Doddaballapura Rural, and one in Doddabelavangala police limits.

The arrests have led to the detection of 26 cases across Bengaluru City and Rural districts. Officials revealed that the accused had prior involvement in serious crimes such as murder, extortion, attempted murder, robbery, and vehicle theft, and had been released on bail earlier. **BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Mysuru Dasara tourism thrives with culture, Cauvery Aarti, drone show

Dasara 2025 blends spirituality, adventure sports, and record-breaking drone displays, drawing lakhs of tourists and boosting Karnataka's festive economy

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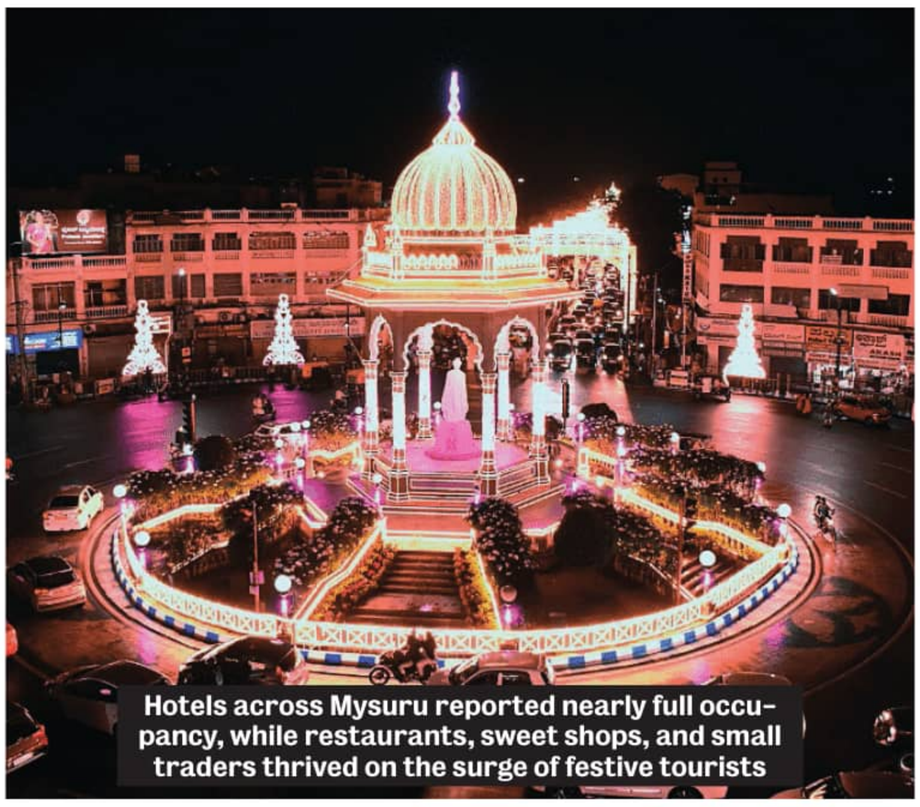
This year's Mysuru Dasara has brought a refreshing twist with the Cauvery Aarti at KRS (Krishna Raja Sagar), combining spirituality, culture, and adventure. Inspired by the Ganga Aarti, the Cauvery Aarti is held to honour the river, while adventure sports such as rafting and water activities have drawn overwhelming crowds. Families are enjoying games together, and young people in particular are embracing the thrill of outdoor challenges. "KRS is writing a new chapter in tourism by blending adventure, entertainment, and culture. Around 80 activities for children and facilities for visitors of all ages have been created, ensuring a memorable experience," said Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman of the BWSSB.



Hotels across Mysuru reported nearly full occupancy, while restaurants, sweet shops, and small traders thrived on the surge of festive tourists

The grandeur of Dasara is extending well beyond its cultural significance, giving a major boost to Karnataka's economy. Mysuru has witnessed a flood of domestic and international tourists, with hotels fully booked weeks in advance. Chamundi Hill alone recorded more than 80,000 devotees on a single day, reflecting the sheer scale of tourism revival. After years of setbacks from COVID-19 and drought, the festival has breathed new life into Mysuru's tourism industry. A good harvest across the state and GST cuts on essential items have added to the festive spirit, spurring even more visitors to join the celebrations.

The hospitality sector has been the biggest beneficiary. According to Narayan Gowda C, President of the Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association, nearly all hotels in central Mysuru are at full occupancy, while those along the Ring Road and in outer areas report about 80% bookings. Restaurants, transport services, taxis, autos, shopping malls, sweet shops, bakeries, and small traders are thriving, thanks to the steady tourist inflow. The benefits extend beyond large establishments, with local vendors, artisans, and street sellers also enjoying brisk business.

Chamundi Hill continues to be the spiritual heart of the festivities, witnessing an unprecedented flow of devotees, with the number expected to cross one lakh soon. Authorities have made arrangements to handle the surge. "Adequate facilities have been put in place for devotees, and we are fully prepared for a record crowd," said MJ Rupa, Secretary of the Chamundeshwari Temple Development Authority.

Elsewhere, the Mysuru Palace, food fairs, exhibitions, and the air show are drawing massive audiences. Every evening, cultural programs at the palace feature music concerts and performances by eminent artists, attracting nearly 50,000 spectators. Around 13,000 tickets were sold in a single day for the palace illumination and cultural shows. The Gold Card system, introduced 25 days before the festival, has also boosted advance bookings, with interstate tourists showing keen interest.

A spectacular highlight came with the grand drone show organised by Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC). Using 2,983 drones, the display lit up the sky with vibrant patterns, including the national animal tiger. The performance entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest drone display of its kind, cementing this year's Dasara as one of the most memorable celebrations in recent history.

KSRTC hikes fares, elephants guarded

T The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced a temporary hike in ticket fares for Bengaluru–Mysuru services during the Dasara festival. Effective from September 26 to October 8, 2025, fares on express, deluxe, and premium services have increased by ₹20 to ₹30 per one-way journey. Officials explained that the adjustment, in place for two decades, offsets the higher operational costs of running special festival trips. These services often involve one-way operations with fewer return passengers and require buses to be mobilized from other divisions. KSRTC said the move ensures uninterrupted, efficient transport for lakhs of commuters heading to Mysuru for the festivities.

In another development, the famed Dasara elephants will receive commando protection this year to prevent crowds from getting dangerously close. Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre said mahouts and kavadis remain vital in guiding elephants during the Jumbo Savari, but risks have grown due to people attempting selfies and reels by touching the animals. Such actions have now been banned, with penalties for violators. Commandos will maintain safe distances between the public and the elephants. The government also announced a memorial for Arjuna, the iconic elephant who carried the golden howdah eight times, at Yasalur this month.

Changing weather triggers dengue spike statewide

Dengue cases are once again on the rise in Karnataka after a lull earlier this year. The changing weather—oscillating between sun and rain—has created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Between September 1 and 25 alone, 800 new cases were reported, pushing the total for 2025 to 9,400 positive cases out of 75,500 blood tests. Thankfully, no deaths have been recorded so far. Bengaluru leads with 2,211 cases, followed by Kalaburagi (246), Tumakuru (160), Vijayapura and Bengaluru Rural (109 each), and Chitradurga (105). This marks a sharp dip compared to 2024, when Karnataka topped the country with 32,820 cases and 20 deaths. Authorities credit this improvement to stringent checks on mosquito breeding in homes, tanks, playgrounds, and construction sites, backed by penalties and special enforcement squads. — BMB

South India dominates country's whisky market

Karnataka has emerged as the country's largest whisky market, topping national sales charts with 6.88 crore cases in the last financial year. Data from the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) shows that India sold 40.17 crore cases of whisky overall, with southern states dominating the market. Karnataka led the pack, followed closely by Tamil Nadu (6.47 crore cases), Telangana (3.71 crore), Andhra Pradesh (3.55 crore), and Kerala (2.29 crore). Together with Puducherry, the five southern states accounted for 23.18 crore cases — an impressive 58% of India's total whisky sales, highlighting the region's strong demand. — BMB

Arkavathi leads CPCB's list of Karnataka's most polluted rivers

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Karnataka has 14 polluted river stretches, CPCB report shows. Arkavathi, Tungabhadra, Dakshinpinakini top priority list with dangerously high BOD, demanding urgent restoration to safeguard ecosystems and public health

Arkavathi river stretch from Hesaraghatta reservoir to Kanakapura town has been classified as a highly polluted (under priority I) stretch by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its recent report.

The report, Polluted River Stretches for Restoration of Water Quality, reveals that Karnataka now has 14 polluted river stretches, including Arkavathi, Tungabhadra, Bhima, Cauvery, Krishna, Shimsha, Tunga, Lakshmantirtha, Bhadra, Ghataprabha, Kabini, Kagina, Malprabha, and Dakshinpinakini. Among these, Arkavathi, Tungabhadra and Dakshinpinakini are of highest concern, with bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels ranging between 20.1 and 30.0 mg/L.

Alarmingly, the maximum BOD value of 72 mg/L was recorded in Arkavathi at Hesaraghatta reservoir, while Dakshinpinakini touched a staggering 146 mg/L and Tungabhadra registered 78 mg/L. These readings highlight severe organic pollution, making water unsuitable for human use without significant treatment and raising concerns for aquatic biodiversity already under pressure from encroachment, sewage inflow and sand mining. The findings are based on monitoring carried out at 125 locations across 30 rivers in Karnataka between 2022 and 2023. Of these, 67 monitoring points on 14 rivers failed to meet prescribed water quality criteria for BOD, which is a key indicator of organic pollution and oxygen depletion.

While Arkavathi, Tungabhadra and Dakshinpinakini fall under priority I, stretches of Bhima, Cauvery, Krishna and Shimsha are under priority II and III. Tunga and Lakshmantirtha are classified as priority IV, while Bhadra, Ghataprabha, Kabini, Kagina and Malprabha are in priority V.

The CPCB notes that there has been an overall improvement in river water quality compared to 2018, when 17 polluted stretches were identified. The number has now come down to 14, and some rivers—including Lakshmantirtha, Malprabha, Bhadra, Kabini and Kagina—have been downgraded to lower priority classes due to improved conditions.

However, water quality has worsened in Arkavathi, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Krishna, Shimsha, Bhima and Tunga. In addition, Ghataprabha and Dakshinpinakini have emerged as newly identified polluted stretches, reflecting both growing urban pressures and inadequate treatment of municipal wastewater.

The assessment, part of the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), was conducted jointly by CPCB and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Officials stressed that restoration of water quality requires urgent interventions and time-bound action plans.

With several rivers serving as lifelines for drinking water, irrigation, agriculture and livelihoods, experts warn that unchecked pollution could have lasting impacts on public health, rural economies, and the fragile ecological balance of Karnataka.

INBRIEF

BJP worker suicide: Clean chit to MLA

Eight months after BJP worker Vinay Somaiah (35) died by suicide, the Hennur police have filed a B report, giving a clean chit to Madikeri MLA, AS Ponnanna and others accused of abetment. Vinay was found dead at his Nagawara office, leaving behind a note alleging harassment through a politically motivated FIR involving Congress leaders, including Ponnanna and Tenneera Maheena. Based on his father's complaint, police booked the accused but probe found no evidence of threats, or communication between Vinay and the accused. With no corroboration through witnesses, calls, or chats, the case was closed. –BMB

BMTC has a new chairman

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) announced on Monday that VS Aradhya has officially assumed charge as the new Chairman of the Corporation. The appointment followed Government order, of September 29. He took over in the presence of BMTC MD Ramachandran R, IAS, Director (Information Technology) Shilpa M, IAS, and Director (Security & Vigilance) Abdul Ahad, IPS. –BMB

Death in minor rape, murder

A POSCO Court has sentenced a man to death for rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Raibagh Taluk of Belagavi district. According to the prosecution, the incident took place in October 2019. The convict Bharatesh Raosab Mirji (28), of Raibag taluk, had abducted the girl when she was returning home. Mirji raped and strangled her to death at his house. He then tied her body with a rock and dumped it in a well. The victim's father lodged a missing complaint with Kuduchi police after she did not return home. –PTI

Without proper checks, documents okayed?

Though court has quashed EWS quota in privat property, builders continue to use clause

Home buyers allege builders sell flats meant for EWS to home buyers at market price

IN FOCUS
RERA in RADAR

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If a registration certificate issued by Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority K-RERA) is any indication, it seems the K-RERA employees do not bother to verify documents submitted by the builders for registration of housing projects. A private builder submitted an application for registration of a housing project stating that he would keep a provision to construct 52 flats for economically weaker sections among the 520 flats to be constructed.

The K-RERA issued a registration certificate to the builder on May 9, 2025, while the Karnataka High Court disposed of a petition submitted by a builder on the issue of constructing flats for home buyers from economically weaker sections. As per the circular issued by Bangalore Development Authority on November 8, 2010, the builder must reserve 10 percent of the flats for home buyers from economically weaker sections and low income groups. The BDA made this mandatory for the builder to get the occupancy certificate. However, the High Court disposed of the builder's application on the issue of EWS flats on August 7, 2024 and set aside the BDA's circular on reserving 10 percent of flats for economically weaker sections and low income groups. "Liberty is given to respondent No. 2 (BDA) to withdraw any concession granted to the petition on account of the circular," the High Court order read.

According to home buyers, the clause of reserving flats for EWS will only help the builder more than the home buyers. They allege that builders sell the flats meant for EWS to home buyers at market price without allocating those flats to others and also availing of benefits from the authorities.

"It is the responsibility of the K-RERA employees to verify the documents submitted by a builder before issuing a registration certificate for the housing project," said veteran Naval Commander Surendra.

Expressing concern about lack of verification, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said the RERA is supposed to be a regulatory body that validates documents and information submitted by the promoters and approves real estate projects. "Unfortunately in Karnataka we are seeing RERA not validating the information and giving approval to new projects. Promoters continue to put EWS flats in their plan even though High Court quashed EWS reservation in private property and RERA giving registration certificate for new project on the same land on which different promoters have taken approval and OC was already issued by BDA. The RERA must examine documents properly and then give approval of new projects," he said.

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

A car with a sticker saying "Not drunk, just avoiding potholes" posted by @kiranshaw got the public ranting furiously about the age-old problem of potholes and how it seems never-ending.

WHAT TWEETING

@riseupforrights points out a gaffe at a petrol bunk. The X user asks: Bengaluru – How is this even possible at the same #petrol pump @IndianOilcl?!

Two times full tank for a two-wheeler, and the same amount charged twice again! (Two wheeler tank capacity 5ltr +)

Tanmay Kulkarni @Tanmay...
#Bengaluru
K'taka govt may impose congestion tax to ease traffic in B'luru: Reports
Karnataka government is considering imposing a 'congestion tax' on single-occupancy cars, starting with Outer Ring Road to ease traffic, reports said. The proposal was discussed at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, with participation from industry leaders like Kiran Mazumdar. If a car with one

Screenshot verified by @riseupforrights

@Tanmaycoolkarni is sure not happy with the plan to impose congestion tax, writing: Wow, now I will pay extra just to sit in the same traffic !

BM TAGGED:

One positive story that has been noticed by our reader @sandeep_hi: The transformation of the Hosur Road subways in recent weeks has been truly remarkable, thanks to @NHAI_Official team. This got covered in today's Bangalore Mirror.

Sandeep Singh
@sandeep_hi
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1:03 pm · 29 Sep 25 · 46 Views

Key banking, pension and service rule changes from tomorrow

Bank customers, pension subscribers, train passengers, and postal service users will all be impacted by several regulatory, banking, and service-related changes that take effect on October 1.

-- RBI cheque clearing: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will shift cheque processing from batch clearing to a continuous clearing method. The new system will be rolled out in two phases, with the first starting on October 4, 2025, and the second from January 3, 2026.

--Railway ticketing rules: New guidelines for purchasing general tickets online via the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) website and mobile app will be put into effect. Updated booking policies will be implemented for Aadhaar-authenticated users on October 1 in an effort to curb ticket reservation system abuse.

-- India Post speed post service: With effect from October 1, India Post has updated its Speed Post rates. GST will now be shown separately on charges, and for added security, customers can choose OTP-based delivery. According to the postal service, these steps are intended to improve the service's security, transparency, and usability.

-- National Pension System (NPS) and reforms: The Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) fees for members of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), NPS, NPS Lite, NPS Vatsalya, and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have been updated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Starting on October 1, the new fee schedule will be in effect.

-- NPS equity: In a major change, non-government NPS subscribers will be allowed to invest up to 100 per cent of their contributions in equities from October 1. They will also be able to hold multiple schemes under a single PRAN across different recordkeeping agencies.

-- Additionally, eligible Central Government workers have until September 30 to transfer from the NPS to the UPS. Employees will no longer be able to choose UPS after this date, and those who are currently employed by UPS must return to NPS prior to retirement deadlines if they so choose. —IANS

Tumakuru Metro project soon: K'taka Minister

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday that the much-awaited Tumakuru Metro project is set to be completed soon.

Tumakuru city is located 70 km away from Bengaluru. Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said, "In the 2024–25 state budget, the Chief Minister had announced a feasibility study for extending the Metro railway line from Madavara to Tumakuru.

The task of conducting the study was entrusted to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

"BMRCL invited tenders at a cost of Rs 3 crore and assigned the feasibility study to a Hyderabad-based company. The company has now submitted its report to the government," he added.

The state government has approved the report and instructed BMRCL to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the Minister said.

"In the first phase the project is estimated to cost Rs 20,649 crore, and several private companies have already expressed interest," he added.

"The state government has already issued an order on September 25, directing BMRCL to prepare a DPR for implementing the 59.6-km Metro railway system from Madavara to Tumakuru under the PPP mode, at a cost of Rs 3 crore.

With this, the Tumakuru Metro project is progressing step by step, and there is every possibility that this long-cherished dream of the people of Tumakuru will soon be realised," the Minister said.

"The social, economic, and educational survey known as caste census in the district is progressing rapidly, and we are in second place in the state," he added.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday, Parameshwara said that as per the state government's order, the survey is being conducted across Karnataka by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare. **–IANS**

Police rescue minor, arrest two in underage prostitution case

Police, in coordination with NGO Odanadi Seva Samsthe, on Monday said they rescued a minor girl and arrested two accused in Mysuru, who are allegedly involved in exploiting underage girls for prostitution.

Shobha, a Bengaluru resident, and her accomplice Tulsi Kumar were arrested on Saturday following a decoy operation in Mysuru organised with the NGO, police added.

The duo is accused of demanding Rs 20 lakh to arrange the sexual exploitation of a girl who had just reached puberty.

Police said preliminary investigations revealed the racket operated on a superstition that "intercourse with minor girls could cure sexual illnesses and impotence", generating demand for such exploitation.

Investigators said the network targeted men with such beliefs and supplied them with menstruating minor girls. **PTI**

Labour dept urged to appoint counsellors for workers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

repeated conflicts over his gaming and mobile phone use, despite living just 300 metres away from his wife and two children. His inability to address these disagreements led him to take his own life, leaving behind a family grappling with the loss.

Calls for counselling

R Kaleem Ullah, activist with Swaraj Abhiyan Bengaluru, which works closely with migrant workers, stressed that digital addiction is rapidly becoming a serious concern in this community. "Once their workday ends, many labourers are immediately drawn to their phones, some to gaming, others to endless reels or online content," he noted. Kaleem highlighted that this constant engagement with digital devices often reduces the capacity to manage real-life conflicts, sometimes leading to avoidable family disputes and, in extreme cases, suicide.

The NGO has formally appealed to the Labour Department to appoint psychiatrists and counsellors for migrant and construction workers. They emphasise on the urgent need for mental health support, awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives addressing the dangers of excessive mobile and gaming use. "Timely counselling and awareness could prevent such outcomes and help settle conflicts peacefully," Kaleem added.

With growing dependence on mobile devices and the pressures of urban migration, experts warn that immediate interventions are essential to safeguard the well-being of migrant labourers and prevent further tragedies.

Dogs being illegally detained at ABC centres, say activists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said, "In the past month, we have been receiving dogs brought to the centre labelled as aggressive, and we are then instructed not to release them back.

These orders came when BBMP was the civic body, and from what we hear, they have been issued by the Lokayukta. We now have dogs that have been at the centre for more than 15 days. If this continues, we will soon run out of space for dogs brought in for ABC procedures, as they need to be kept under observation for three days after neutering. If dogs are to be kept in observation centres for longer periods, then separate shelters must be created for them."

The letter also added that the latest AWBI hand book dated March 2025 only refers to biting dogs / rabid dogs and for them to be kept under observation for a period of 10 days.

"There is a governing statute PCA 1960 for the ABC rules and no one can be above the law. While the dog population is on the rise and many dogs in these observation centres suffer in captivity, we once request you for the sake of the dogs and overall welfare of the people / dogs to kindly write to Lokayukta about this."

Anjali Gopalan, Director of Naz Foundation and a member of AWBI, wondered how the authorities are determining which dogs are aggressive. "Have spaces been created to house them? ABC centres cannot keep dogs on a permanent basis, yet they are being misused in this manner. Are there any separate facilities for these so-called aggressive dogs? The solution lies in ensuring that animals are sterilised, vaccinated, and released back to their original locations, in line with Supreme Court orders and the 2023 ABC Rules. The civic agency must adopt stringent measures to implement these rules. It should work with the very people who care for these animals, instead of targeting them. Lokayukta has no authority to interfere in this matter," Gopalan said.

On August 30, the civic agency issued an order to carry out the CNVR procedure as part of the ABC programme. Under this, dogs were to be kept only for a day after surgery, whereas the new norms mandate a three-day post-operative stay.

"This move was introduced to create more space and accommodate other dogs in the centres. We were shocked as it would take time for the dog to heal. However as many citizens were against it, was later revoked," added a source.

Feeders attacked

Gopalan added that Instead of protecting feeders, many of whom are women, there has been a surge in attacks against them, physical assaults, intimidation, and harassment. "Resident welfare associations have become a set of people who show no compassion.

For many RWAs, every street dog is conveniently branded aggressive often only because the animals react defensively when people chase them away or throw sticks at them," she said.

Harini Raghavan from Citizens for Animal Birth control said the street dogs are still governed by Prevention of Cruelty ACT 1960 / ABC rules. "There is no provision in the statute for permanent impounding of dogs. Section 16 of ABC rules says that biting dogs should be picked up for rabies observation and if not found rabid would/ should be dropped back post vaccination after 10 days. Unless there is a change in statute, the authorities should follow the existing laws and educate external parties putting pressure on them," she said.

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NOTICE

01st Sep, 2025

High Commission of India, London has received a notice of intended marriage from Mr. Sainath Badam, S/o Srinivas Badam, holder of Indian Passport No. V7347307 and Miss Ranjitha Kodagavallihatti Thippeswamy, D/o Thippeswamy Kodagavallihatti Palaiah, holder of Indian Passport No. V1750611 under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India. Objection, if any (along with valid reasons), to the intended marriage may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, London within 30 Days of publication of this notice at the following address:

Second Secretary, High Commission of India, India House, Aldywch, WC2B 4NA

Sd/- Rajeev Kumar Sharma
SS (Passport) I/C (Consular)

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Adil Pasha Atif Pasha S/o Adil Pasha R/o #18,8th ward, Attibele Rd Anekal,B'lore-562106 have changed my name to Atif Pasha

I, Rafiuddin Ahmed Hassan Khan R/O #36, MM Layout, Banglore-560032 have changed my name to Rafiuddin Ahmed for all purposes

I, Mallikarjun R/o E1/104 Basaveshwara Nagar Kamarwadi Kalaburgi-585225 have changed my name to Mallikarjun Patil.

I Deeksha Ashoka, residing at No 6, Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, 560004 have changed my name to Deeksha Ashok as per Aadhaar for all purposes.

I, Anit Agarwal, age 6, S/o Nitin Agarwal, R/o 4131, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, varthur road, Bangalore, have changed my name to Ritwik Agarwal, as per Affidavit No. IN-KA32349627679021X

I, Nagaraja Managal Bhoralingaiah S/o Bhoralingaiah R/o #68,3rd Main,5th Cross,Health And Family layout, Srigandada Kaval, B'luru 560091 have changed my name to Nagaraj Managal Bhoralingaiah.

I, Aditi Bagrecha D/o Sandeepkumar Bagrecha R/at 22, I main Nagappa Block Sriramapura, B'lore 560021 have changed my name to Aditi Sandeep Bagrecha vide affid avit dtd 25.09.25 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu B'lore.

I, NAHIDA D/O FAREED AHMED KHAN residing at #470, 8th Cross, Balaji Krupa Layout, SRK Nagar, R K Hegde Nagar, Dr Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560077. I have changed my name to NAHIDA KHATOON. Vide affidavit dated 27/09/2025 sworn before notary. L Puttaraju Bengaluru

I, Ms. Roopa Lakshminarayana, D/O: Lakshminarayana S G, R/O: # 36, 7th Cross, 1st Main, Shakthiganapathi Nagar, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079; want to correct & update my father's name as "Lakshminarayana Solur Ganganarasaiah" in all documents for all purposes wide Affidavit No: IN-KA56121864480201X

ABU Sufiyan k S/O Kareem Baig, no 26/1 3rd cross vinayakanagar Mysore Road 560026, I have change my name to Abbu Sufiyan

I, Shameeda Banu Rafiuddin Ahmed R/O 36, MM Layout, Banglore-560032 have changed my name to Shameeda Banu for all purposes

I, Khushi D/o Ramakant Heda R/o H.No 535,Neelkamal,Vithal Dev Galli,Shahapur,Belgaum 590003,Ka have changed my name to Khushi Heda For All Purposes.

I, Prem Kumar R/o 865,3rd floor,17th Cross, Vinayaka layout B'lore-560072 have changed my minor son's name from Kevin Prem Kumar to Kanishk Premkumar.

I, Paramashivaiah Mangal Boralingaiah S/o Boralingaiah R/o #148,Managallu Village, Madabal Hobali, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagar 561201 have changed my name to Paramashivaiah.

I Shwetapriya Siddanna Allapur W/O, Rahul R/o # 14 Madhusiri Ground Floor 7 Th Cross 4th Main Near Bbmp Ward Office Byraveshwaranar Nagar Nagarbhavi Main Road Bangalore 560072 have changed my name to Shwetapriya Allapur.

I, Sathish Chandra Chennappa Annappa S/o Annappa Chennappa R/at 80 Samanvaya, 3rd Cross, Sai Enclave Kanakagiri, Banjara Layout, Kalkere, Horamavu B'lore 560043 have changed my name to Satish Chandra Chennappa Annappa vide affid avit dated 25.09.25 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu, B'lore.

LOST & FOUND

I Anil Pahlaj Nichani, S/o. Late Mr Pahlaj Choitram Nichani informs that the original sale deed dated 29th August 1996 has been lost for the property site bearing no. G-23 at "Kushual Garden Arcade" No. 1A, Peenya Industrial Area, Phase 2, Bangalore – 560058 measuring 225 Sq.ft, registered at Rajajinagar sub-registered office Bangalore Rural, bearing document No. 2890 / 1996 – 1997 Page No.2 -8, Volume 5716 of Book No. I dated 29.08.1996 and have registered a police complaint ref no.1549660/2025 dated 03/04/2025, If found please contact 9886220077

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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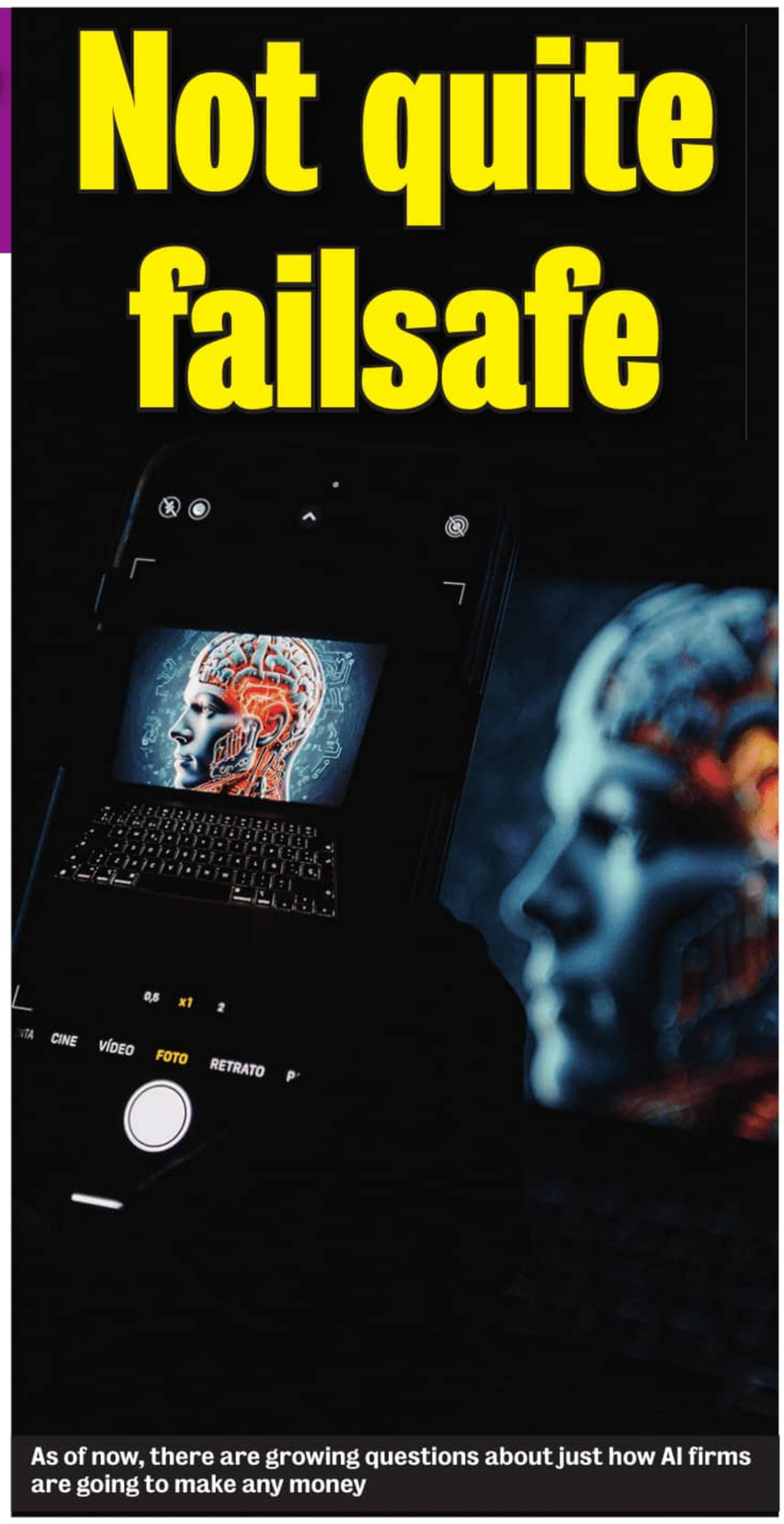
What if generative AI ends up being worthless?

Not quite failsafe



As of now, there are growing questions about just how AI firms are going to make any money

Most tech giants have not succeeded by creating high-cost products, but rather by making low-cost products that users can't quit, largely funded by advertising

In the rush to cash in on the generative artificial intelligence gold rush, one possible outcome of AI's future rarely gets discussed: what if the technology never works well enough to replace your co-workers, companies fail to use AI well, or most AI startups simply fail?

Current estimates suggest big AI firms face a USD 800 billion revenue shortfall.

So far, genAI's productivity gains are minimal and mostly for programmers and copywriters. GenAI does some neat, helpful things, but it's not yet the engine of a new economy.

It's not a bad future, but it's different from the one currently driving news headlines. And it's a future that doesn't fit the narrative AI firms want to tell. Hype fuels new rounds of investment promising massive future profits.

Maybe genAI will turn out to be worthless, and maybe that's fine.

Indispensable or indefensible?

Free genAI services and cheap subscription services like ChatGPT and Gemini cost a lot of money to run. Right now, however, there are growing questions about just how AI firms are going to make any money.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has been candid about how much money his firm spends, once quipping that every time ChatGPT says "please" or "thank you," it costs the firm millions. Exactly how much OpenAI loses per chat is anyone's guess, but Altman has also said even paid pro accounts lose money because of the high computing costs that come with each query.

Like many startups, genAI firms have followed the classic playbook: burn through money to attract and lock in users with a killer product they can't afford to miss out on. But most tech giants have not succeeded by creating high-cost products, but rather by making low-cost products that users can't quit, largely funded by advertising.

When companies try to find new value, the result is what journalist and author Cory Doctorow coined "enshittification," or the gradual decline of platforms over time. In this case, enshittification means the number of ads increases to make up for the loss of offering the free service.

OpenAI is considering bringing ads to ChatGPT, though the company says it is being "very thoughtful and tasteful" about how this is done.

It's too soon to tell whether this playbook will work for genAI. There is a possibility that advertising might not generate enough revenue to justify the massive spending needed to power it. That is because genAI is becoming something of a liability.

The hidden costs of AI models

Another looming problem for genAI is copyright. Most AI firms are either being sued for using content without permission or entering costly contracts to license content.

GenAI has "learned" in a lot of dubious ways, including reading copyrighted books and scraping nearly anything said online. One model can recall "from memory" 42 per cent of the first Harry Potter novel.

Firms face a big financial headache of lobbying to exempt themselves from copyright woes and paying off publishers and creators to protect their models, which might end up a liability no matter what.

American AI startup Anthropic tried to pay authors around USD 3,000 per book to train its models, adding up to a proposed settlement that added up to USD 1.5 billion. But it was quickly thrown out by the courts for being too simple. Anthropic's current valuation of USD 183 billion might get eaten up pretty quickly in lawsuits.

The end result of all this is that AI is just too expensive to be owned, and is becoming something like a toxic asset: something that is useful but not valuable in and of itself.

Cheap or free genAI

Meta, perhaps strategically, has released its genAI model, Llama, as open source. Whether this was meant to upset its competitors or signal a different ethical stance, it means anyone with a decent computer can run their own local version of Llama for free.

Open AI models are another corporate strategy to lock in market share, with curious side effects. They are not as advanced as Gemini or ChatGPT, but they are good enough, and they are free (or at least cheaper than commercial models).

Open models upset the high valuations being placed on AI firms. Chinese firm DeepSeek momentarily tanked AI stocks when it released an open model that performed as well as the commercial models. DeepSeek's motives are murky, but its success contributes to growing doubts about whether genAI is as valuable as assumed.

Open models — these by-products of industrial competition — are ubiquitous and getting easier to access. With enough success, commercial AI firms might be hard-pressed to sell their services against free alternatives.

Investors could also become more sceptical of commercial AI, which could potentially dry up the taps of seed money. Even if open access models also end up being sued into oblivion, it will be much harder to remove them from the internet.

Can AI ever be owned?

The idea of genAI being worthless might recognise that knowledge is intangibly valuable. The best genAI models are trained on the world's knowledge — so much information that the true price may be impossible to calculate.

Ironically, these efforts by AI firms to capture and commercialise the world's knowledge might be the thing damning their products; a resource so valuable that a price cannot be attached. These systems may be so indebted to collective intellectual labour that their outputs cannot truly be owned.

If genAI can't generate sustainable profits, the consequences will likely be mixed. Creators pursuing deals with AI firms may be out of luck; there will be no big cheques from OpenAI, Anthropic or Google if their models are liabilities.

Progress on genAI could stall, too, leaving consumers with "good enough" tools that are free to use. In that scenario, AI firms may become less important, the technology a little less powerful — and that might be perfectly OK. Users would still benefit from accessible, functional tools while being spared from another round of overhyped pitches doomed to fail.

The threat of AI being worth less than anticipated might be the best defence against the growing power of big tech today. If the business case for generative AI proves unsustainable, what better place for such an empire to crumble than on the balance sheets?

(By Fenwick McKelvey, Concordia University, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

Radical TikTok

Hundreds of anonymous accounts on video-sharing platform TikTok have been increasingly active in spreading pro-Russia narratives and backing radical parties ahead of the Czech Republic's October 3-4 election, a non-governmental group said on Sunday.

Online Risk Labs, a newly formed group of Czech analysts, said it had identified 286 TikTok accounts that have been boosting each other's content. Between them, they have 5 million to 9 million views per week - more than the combined reach of mainstream party leaders, the group said. "The accounts do not align with a single political entity, but rather demonstrate support for multiple radical and extremist parties simultaneously," the group said in a statement.

Nearly a quarter of Czechs use TikTok, according to local media reports.**–Reuters**

DeepSeek update

Chinese AI developer DeepSeek has released its "experimental" latest model, which it said was more efficient to train and better at processing long sequences of text than previous iterations of its large language models.

The Hangzhou-based company called DeepSeek-V3.2-Exp an "intermediate step toward our next-generation architecture" in a post on developer forum Hugging Face. That architecture will likely be DeepSeek's most important product release since V3 and R1 shocked Silicon Valley and tech investors outside China. The V3.2-Exp model includes a mechanism called DeepSeek Sparse Attention, which the Chinese firm says can cut computing costs and boost some types of model performance. DeepSeek said in a post on X on Monday that it is cutting API prices by "50%+".

DeepSeek's next-generation architecture is unlikely to roil markets as previous versions did in January. **–Reuters**

Parental controls on

OpenAI is rolling out parental controls for ChatGPT on the web and mobile, following a lawsuit by the parents of a teen who died by suicide after the artificial intelligence startup's chatbot allegedly coached him on methods of self-harm. The company said on Monday the controls will allow parents and teens to link accounts for stronger safeguards for teenagers.

US regulators are scrutinising AI companies over the potential negative impacts of chatbots. Under the new measures, parents will be able to reduce exposure to sensitive content, control whether ChatGPT remembers past chats, and decide if conversations can be used to train OpenAI's models, the Microsoft-backed company said on X.

–Reuters

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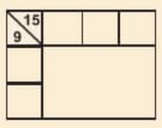
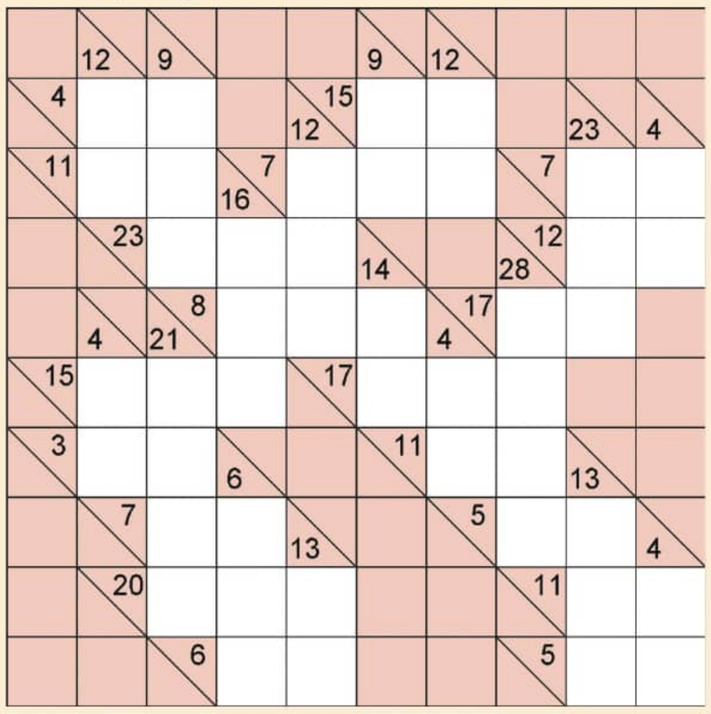
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

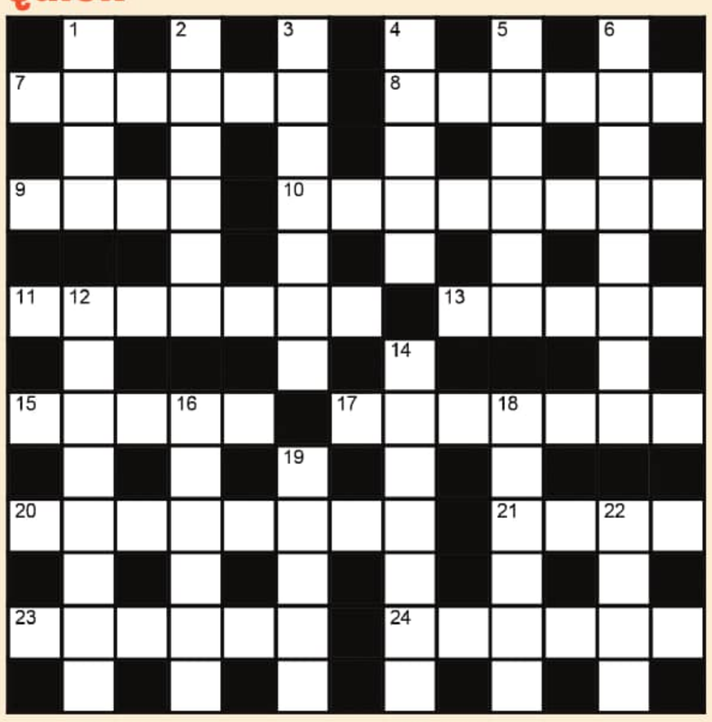
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Angora wool (6)
8 Incendiary liquid (6)
9 Tough guy (4)
10 Swollen (8)
11 Social and political equality (7)
13 To unfasten (5)
15 Poker hand (5)
17 Alleviate (7)
20 Intellectual (8)
21 Bundle (4)
23 Capital of Lebanon (6)
24 Infrequently (6)

DOWN

1 Slang usage meaning, "nothing doing"? (2,2)
2 Item of footwear (6)
3 Weakness (7)
4 Cutting implement (5)
5 Wrench painfully (6)
6 Claiming to be the case–especially without proof (8)
12 He was a giant for the Lilliputians (8)
14 Cinema in the Banashankari area (7)
16 Large desert (6)
18 Referee (6)
19 Foam (5)
22 Soft drink (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS H

TK ETF PJDKL MX TFQK EJPP CJK MX TRYAKB.

Linemaro

You're more beautiful than a hundred pink flamingos on a golf course

Mindchow

The wise are instructed by reason, average minds by experience, the stupid by necessity and the brute by instinct

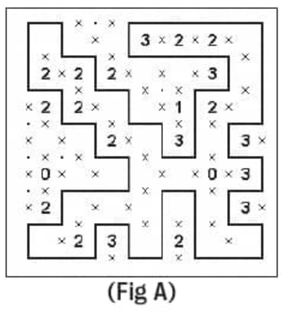
Joke of the day

Men want the same thing from their underwear that they want from women: a little bit of support, and a little bit of freedom

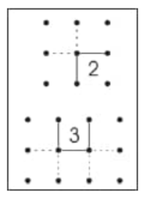
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

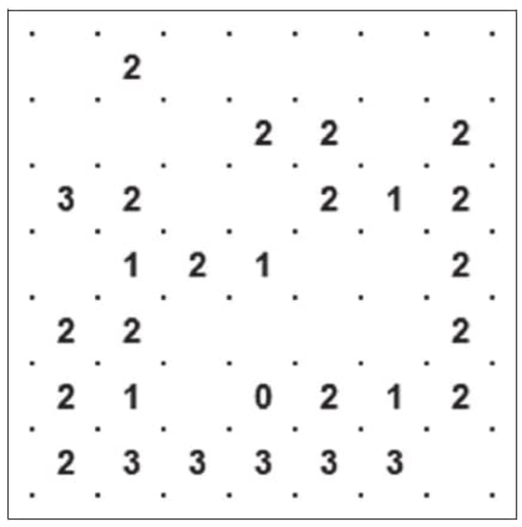


(Fig B) Not Allowed

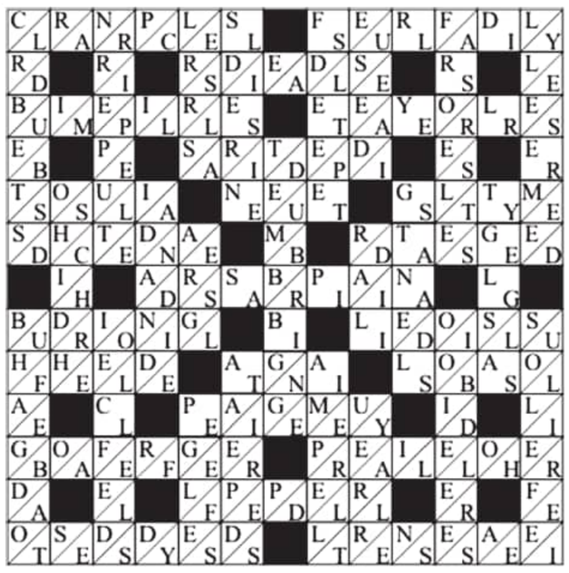
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



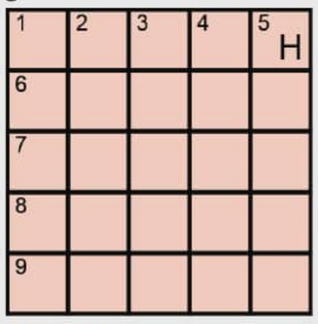
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

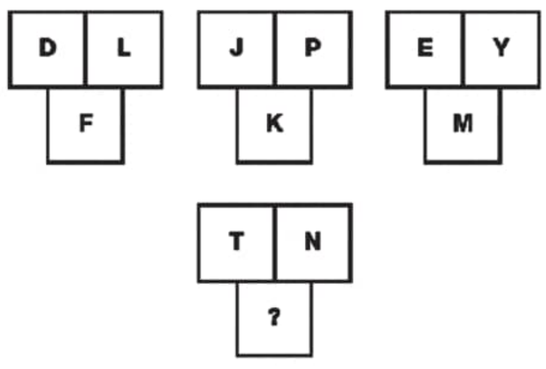
1 Haw as; 6 Pit me;
7 Noils; 8 Goa is;
9 Ah sky

DOWN

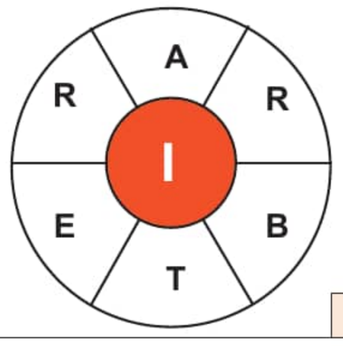
1 Talas; 2 Wig he;
3 Amain; 4 Sop OK;
5 Is shy

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	6		9	2		
		8	7				1	
	3	2		8				9
2				6			3	
	7			9				8
9				7		4	2	
	1				4	6		
		6	3		1	8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

1 4 5 6

Medium = 34

5 5 6 7

Hard = 8

2 2 3 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

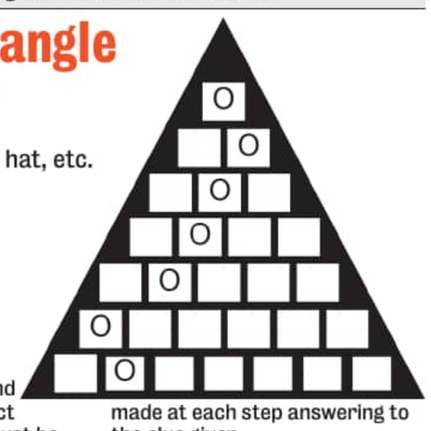
Differences: 1. Window in door is smaller. 2. Man's mouth is open. 3. Hair is longer. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Box flap is different. 6. Chair is different.

Riddler

There was once a blacksmith who used to make spears and shields. He came to Emperor Akbar's court and claimed–"Your Majesty, nobody can make shields and spears like mine. My shields are so strong that nothing can pierce them and my spears are so sharp that there is nothing they cannot pierce." On hearing this statement, Birbal immediately said, "You lie and I can prove that you are lying." What did he find wrong with the man's statement?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Thus
3 A male child
4 Puts on clothing, hat, etc.
5 Stem joints
6 Belgian port
7 Contributes



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday ushers in positivity and purpose. Finances benefit from clear strategies and consistent action. Career growth accelerates when you embrace challenges. Love brings harmony through trust and shared intentions. Luck shines when you follow your passions. Tip: Focus on balance, nurturing both your ambitions and personal well-being will create a fulfilling and joyful year ahead.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Close the month with bold action, pursue opportunities you've been contemplating. Your courage inspires others, ensuring the steps you take now create momentum for success in the coming days and months.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Enjoy restorative routines, spend time in peaceful spaces or indulge in comforting rituals. These grounding moments bring emotional renewal, leaving you feeling balanced and ready for new challenges.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your voice matters, speak up in conversations that shape your future. Sharing ideas confidently attracts support, helping you turn your vision into achievable plans with exciting potential for growth.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Deepen emotional bonds, share your feelings with someone you trust. These honest exchanges create harmony and strengthen connections, leaving you supported and valued in your most important relationships.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Celebrate your achievements, big and small. Recognizing your progress builds confidence and motivates you to set even bigger goals, aligning your actions with your long-term vision for success and fulfillment.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Organize your environment for clarity. This refreshed space restores balance, making it easier to focus on priorities and achieve meaningful results with less stress and greater satisfaction.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Express gratitude to those who uplift you. These acts of appreciation nurture harmony in relationships, strengthening bonds and creating a supportive, joyful environment in your personal world.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Embrace change, it's leading you to growth and transformation. Trust that these shifts align with your highest potential, guiding you toward a more empowered and fulfilling chapter of your journey.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
New experiences spark joy, say yes to opportunities that challenge and inspire you. These adventures broaden your perspective, fueling your enthusiasm for personal and professional growth.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Persistence delivers results, stay focused on your long-term vision. Every disciplined step strengthens your foundation for success, bringing you closer to achieving the meaningful goals you've been working toward.

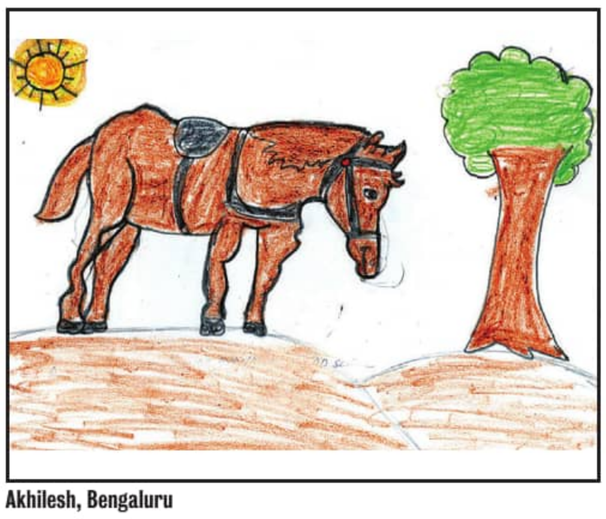
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Collaboration drives success, work with those who share your passion. These partnerships bring fresh ideas and practical solutions, turning your ambitious visions into rewarding, impactful accomplishments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Quiet self-reflection nurtures peace. Take time for journaling or meditation, strengthening your connection to your inner wisdom and preparing you for the opportunities ahead with calm confidence.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Mugdha, Bengaluru



Akhilesh, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$= 6[(4)^2] \div 6(4)^1$
$= 6[16] \div 6(4)$
$= 96 \div 6(4)$
$= 16(4) = 64$

RIDDLER Birbal told the man – "I can prove you wrong. Let's do a simple test. Hold up one of your shields and I will pierce it with one of your spears". The man realized he had been outwitted because both his statements could never be true at the same time.

QUOTE UNCODE
He who lives by hope will die by hunger.

FAST FIVE

A	W	A	S	H
T	E	M	P	I
L	I	N	O	S
A	G	I	O	S
S	H	A	K	Y

STRIKE OUT

T	E	D	D	E	D	■	L	E	S	S	E	E	■	■
A	■	E	■	L	E	P	E	R	■	E	■	■	■	■
G	A	F	F	E	R	■	P	A	L	L	O	R	■	■
A	■	L	■	P	I	G	M	Y	■	D	■	I	■	■
H	E	L	D	■	A	N	I	■	S	O	S	O	■	■
B	R	I	N	G	■	I	■	D	O	L	S	■	■	■
■	H	■	A	R	A	B	I	A	N	■	L	■	■	■
S	C	E	N	E	■	B	■	R	A	S	E	D	■	■
T	O	L	A	■	N	U	T	■	S	T	Y	E	■	■
E	■	P	■	S	I	D	E	D	■	S	■	R	■	■
U	M	P	I	R	E	■	E	E	Y	O	R	E	■	■
R	■	I	■	R	I	A	L	S	■	R	■	E	■	■
C	A	N	C	E	L	■	F	U	L	F	I	L	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
0. In each diagram, add the numerical values of the top 2 letters together, divide this by 2 and subtract 2 to give the numerical value of the lower letter

BULL'S EYE
ARBITER, bait, bier, bite, biter, briar, brie, brier, irate, RAREBIT, rite, tier, tire, trible

SUDOKU

7	4	1	6	3	9	2	8	5
5	9	8	7	4	2	3	1	6
6	3	2	1	8	5	7	4	9
2	8	9	5	6	7	1	3	4
3	6	5	4	1	8	9	7	2
1	7	4	2	9	3	5	6	8
9	5	3	8	7	6	4	2	1
8	1	7	9	2	4	6	5	3
4	2	6	3	5	1	8	9	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, So, Son, Dons, Nodes, Ostend, Donates.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 – 1 – 6 = 2
Medium
5 x 7 + 5 – 6 = 34
Hard
6 – 3 x 2 + 2 = 8

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 193 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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